



# The Passenger Pigeon

Volume 48, Number 7

The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

October 2012

## **Program:**

**Darwin's Finches and More  
– The Galapagos Islands  
and Mainland Ecuador**

## **Speaker:**

**Steve Bobonick, Bird Club  
Program Coordinator**

## **Date:**

**Thursday, Oct. 18  
7 p.m.**

**Sharon Woods  
Visitor Center**

The October program will be presented by your very own program coordinator. In July of this year, I made a “trip of a lifetime” to the Galapagos Islands, along with my wife, Ann and fellow bird club members Dave and DeeAnne Helm. In addition to the Galapagos, we also spent four nights at Sacha Lodge, located in the Amazonian rainforest habitat of Ecuador. Finally, we spent a brief amount of time birding both the eastern and western slopes of the Andes.

This program, which will be primarily photo based, will focus on the unique fauna of the Galapagos Islands, including photos of 13 of the 14 species of ‘Darwin’s Finches’. Darwin’s observations on these islands, particularly the variation of the beaks of this group of birds, greatly influenced the

development of his theory on the origin of species.

I will also discuss the logistics of getting to Sacha Lodge, with plenty of photos of the facilities and the birds and primates that can be found there. With 1600 species of birds, Ecuador is a birder’s paradise, and is particularly known for its large number of hummingbird species. Our visits to sites near Quito provided the opportunity to photograph many of these living jewels. So, if you have ever thought about a trip to the Galapagos, or Ecuador in general, put this program on your calendar and come out to join us!

For those who do not know me, I started birding at age 14, back in my home state of Connecticut. 40+ years later, I am still at it. I have birded across the ABA area and have also had the opportunity to do some global birding. I lead bird walks for both the Bird Club and the Cincinnati Nature Center.

*-Steve Bobonick*



White-necked Jacobian.  
Courtesy Steve Bobonick

# Field Trips

*(Contributed by Jay Stenger, Field Trip Coordinator)*

**Location:** Miami  
Whitewater Wetlands  
(Shaker Trace)

**Date:** Saturday, Oct 13

**Meet:** 8 a.m. at the  
Baughman Rd. parking lot  
(see directions below)

**Leader:** Ned Keller  
(513) 941-6497  
nedkeller49@gmail.com

Late migrant passerines, late shorebirds, early waterfowl, raptors and early winter visitors are all possible on this trip to one of our areas finest wetlands, the Shaker Trace at Miami Whitewater Forest. The focus of this trip however will be on sparrows. While most neo-tropical migrants move through during September, the month of October sees the bulk of the sparrow passage. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, an otherwise extremely rare migrant through our area, has become an annual and regular migrant at the wetlands, and is seen fairly often here during the month of October.

We have a good chance of finding one or two. Lincoln's Sparrow is also expected at this time of the year and many of the winter sparrows should be in by then. A long shot, but the right habitat and the right time of the year, would be LeConte's Sparrow. We can expect some surprises and a mixed bag on

this trip. The weather could prove to be the star of this trip as mid-October has typically cool, crisp autumn days. Fall colors will be abundant and make a picturesque backdrop to what should be a great trip.

The trip will consist of level, moderate walking. However the trails through the wetlands are not paved and can be damp and muddy, so wear appropriate footwear. This trip should end around noon. If time permits, Ned may make a quick visit to nearby Fernald Preserve. There are no restroom facilities at the Miami Whitewater wetlands, but they are available nearby in the main park area and at Fernald Preserve. A Hamilton County Park pass is required (\$3.00 daily, \$10.00 annual) at Miami Whitewater for each vehicle.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the wetlands parking area on Baughman Road. From I-74, take the Dry Fork Road exit # 3, and turn right. Continue past West Rd, and stay on Dry Fork until it ends. Turn right onto New Haven Road. At the first stop sign, turn left onto Oxford Road, and then immediately left again onto Baughman Road. The dirt parking area is on the right side of the road, just past the bike trail crossing. Contact Ned to answer any of your questions.

Directions to Miami Whitewater as well as maps and other information can be found at the following website:  
[www.hamiltoncountyparks.org/parks/miami-whitewater-forest.html](http://www.hamiltoncountyparks.org/parks/miami-whitewater-forest.html)

For information about Fernald Preserve go to:  
[www.lm.doe.gov/Fernald/Visitors\\_Center/Visitors\\_Center.pdf](http://www.lm.doe.gov/Fernald/Visitors_Center/Visitors_Center.pdf)

## Local Calendar

### Audubon Society of Ohio

**Date:** Saturday, Oct 13

**Field Trip:** *Red Wolf Sanctuary*

**Date:** Monday, Oct 15

**Program:** *The Red Wolf Sanctuary*

See [www.cincinnati.audubon.org](http://www.cincinnati.audubon.org) for additional details.

### Cincinnati Nature Center

#### Field Trips

October 13	Lester Peyton (at LBFT)
October 27	Darlana Graham
November 10	Lester Peyton (at LBFT)
November 22	Lois Shadix

See [www.cincynature.org](http://www.cincynature.org) for additional details.

### Oxbow, Inc.

**Date:** Tues., November 13

**Program:** *Paleo Plants*

See [www.oxbowinc.org](http://www.oxbowinc.org) for additional details.

## Club News

Autumn is the time for most of us to renew our club dues. We want to thank everyone who has already remitted yearly dues. Yearly dues are the CBC's only means of financial support and we want to continue to provide great speakers, a good central location for a meeting place, and our newsletter, "The Passenger Pigeon," for the low cost of only \$12 - single membership and \$15 - family membership.

Please let us know if any of your personal information has changed. We cannot continue to send our newsletter to you if you do not let us know of changes to your e-mail address or hardcopy address. Contact the Newsletter Editor, Harris Abramson, or Treasurer, Lois Shadix, with updates and let us know if you are not receiving our newsletter.

Some of our members are on another cycle for paying dues depending on inception date. In this case dues are due on a first-of-the-year cycle. You can check with me, or if you sent dues in recently, I can extend your membership for the year from your last payment date.

One of our largest expenses is the cost of sending out the hardcopy of the newsletter. The cost of printing and mailing the newsletter continues to increase every year. So please consider changing to the e-mail version of our newsletter if you can. In the future we may have to consider adding a surcharge to the dues of hardcopy recipients to cover this additional cost. Most of the other clubs in Cincinnati are already doing this.

-Lois Shadix, Treasurer CBC.  
lcshadix@fuse.net

# Ron Pittaway's Winter Finch Forecast 2012-2013

*(From eBird News and The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Reprinted with permission. www.birds.cornell.edu)*

## WINTER FINCH FORECAST 2012-2013

The theme this winter is that each finch species will use a different strategy to deal with the widespread tree seed crop failure in the Northeast. It will be a quiet winter in the eastern North Woods. See individual species forecasts for details. Both coniferous and hardwood tree seed crops are generally poor from northeastern Ontario extending eastward across Quebec to Newfoundland south through the Maritime Provinces, New York and New England States. Within the Northeast there are pockets of good crops. Cone crops are much better in the Hudson Bay Lowlands and northwestern Ontario west to Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon. Three irruptive non-finch passerines whose movements are linked to finches are also discussed.

## INDIVIDUAL FINCH FORECASTS

**PINE GROSBEAK:** A good flight is expected into southern Ontario because the mountain-ash berry crop is variable in the boreal forest. Many berries are hard with low moisture content because of the drought. The European mountain-ash and ornamental crabapple crops are poor to fair in southern Ontario so these crops won't last long. Grosbeaks will be attracted to the usually abundant buckthorn berries and to bird feeders offering black oil sunflower seeds. The Ontario breeding population of this grosbeak is stable.

**PURPLE FINCH:** Most Purple Finches will migrate south of Ontario this fall because both coniferous and deciduous hardwood

seed crops are very low this year in the Northeast. Purple Finch numbers dropped significantly in recent decades as spruce budworm outbreaks subsided and currently a moderate population decline continues in the province.

**RED CROSSBILL:** Red Crossbills comprise at least 10 "types" in North America. Each type probably represents a separate or newly evolving species. Most types are normally impossible to identify in the field without recordings of their flight calls. Matt Young of The Cornell Lab of Ornithology reports that there is currently a large early irruption of Type 3 Red Crossbills (smallest billed type) from the west into eastern North America. Recordings can be made with a cell phone and sent to Matt to be identified (may6@cornell.edu). Every recording adds an important piece to the puzzle, especially when accompanied by notes on behaviour and ecology, including tree species used for foraging and nesting. Matt emphasizes that the conservation of call types depends on understanding their complex distributions and ecological requirements.

**WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL:** With very poor spruce cone crops in the Northeast, most White-winged Crossbills will likely stay this winter in the Hudson Bay Lowlands, northwestern Ontario and western Canada where spruce cone crops are generally very good. They will be virtually absent from traditional hotspots such as Algonquin Park where spruce crops are very low. Wandering birds may show up throughout the Northeast.

**COMMON REDPOLL:** There should be a good southward flight because the white birch seed crop is poor to fair across the north. Watch for redpolls on birches and in weedy fields and at bird feeders offering nyger (preferred) and black oil sunflower seeds. Check flocks for the rare "Greater" Common Redpoll (subspecies *rostrata*) from the High Arctic. It is reliably identified by its

larger size, darker and browner colour, longer/thicker bill and longer tail in direct comparison to “Southern” Common Redpolls (nominata *flammea* subspecies). Note: The notion of a “biennial periodicity” that redpolls irrupt south every second winter is not supported by records in Atlantic Canada (Erskine and McManus 2003). The authors concluded that “irregular abundance but near-annual occurrence” of redpolls in the Atlantic Provinces is a better explanation than a two year cycle. Similarly redpolls were recorded on 32 of 38 Christmas Bird Counts in Algonquin Park (Lat. 45.5 N), Ontario.

**HOARY REDPOLL:** Check redpoll flocks for Hoary Redpolls. There are two subspecies. Most Hoaries seen in southern Canada and northern United States are “Southern” Hoary Redpolls (subspecies *exilipes*). “Hornemann’s” Hoary Redpoll (nominata subspecies *hornemanni*) from the High Arctic was previously regarded as a great rarity in southern Canada and the northern United States. In recent decades a number have been confirmed by photographs. Hornemann’s is most reliably identified by its larger size in direct comparison to *flammea* Common Redpoll or *exilipes* Hoary Redpoll. Caution: White birds loom larger than life among darker birds and size illusions are frequent.

**PINE SISKIN:** Some siskins currently in the Northeast should move south this fall and winter because cone crops are poor. However, siskins are an opportunistic nomad wandering east and west continent-wide in search of cone crops. Most siskins will probably winter in northwestern Ontario and western Canada where cone crops are generally very good. Major southward irruptions occur when cone crops fail across most of North America.

**EVENING GROSBEAK:** This spectacular grosbeak is ABA’s Bird of the Year in 2012. We can expect some at feeders in central

Ontario and probably elsewhere in the Northeast because coniferous and hardwood tree seed supplies are low. Highest breeding densities are found in areas with spruce budworm outbreaks. The larvae are eaten by adults and fed to young. Current populations are much lower than several decades ago when budworm outbreaks were much larger and more widespread.

### **THREE IRRUPTIVE PASSERINES:**

Movements of the following three species are often linked to the boreal finches.

**BLUE JAY:** Expect a smaller flight than last year along the north shorelines of Lakes Ontario and Erie because the red oak acorn crop is very good in central Ontario. Beechnut and hazelnut crops were poor to none, but the acorn crop may be large enough to keep many jays in the north this winter.

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** A widespread irruption of this nuthatch beginning in mid-summer indicated a cone crop failure in the Northeast. Most will leave the eastern half of the province for the winter, but some will probably remain in northwestern Ontario where cone crops are much better.

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** Expect a flight this winter because the mountain-ash berry crop in the boreal forest was affected by drought. Even though some areas have large crops, many berries are hard with low moisture content. Farther south Bohemians will be attracted to the usually abundant buckthorn berries because European mountain-ash and ornamental crabapple crops are generally low and of poor quality.

### **WHERE TO SEE FINCHES IN**

**ONTARIO:** Algonquin Park is a winter adventure about a three hour drive north of Toronto, but this will be a very lean finch winter in the park. Conifer crops are poor to none. Feeders at the Visitor Centre (km 43)

should have Pine Grosbeaks, Evening Grosbeaks, and redpolls. The Visitor Centre and restaurant are open weekends in winter. Arrangements can be made to view feeders on weekdays by calling 613-637-2828. The nearby Spruce Bog Trail at km 42.5 and Opeongo Road are good spots for Gray Jays, Boreal Chickadees, Spruce Grouse and Black-backed Woodpeckers. Be sure to get a copy of the new “Birds of Algonquin Park” (2012) by Ron Tozer. It is one of the best regional bird books ever published with lots of information about winter finches and boreal specialties.

<http://store.algonquinpark.on.ca/cgi/algonquinpark>

**WINTER FINCH BASICS:** A primer about finch facts, seed crops and irruptions.

[www.jeaniron.ca/2011/WinterFinches.pdf](http://www.jeaniron.ca/2011/WinterFinches.pdf)

Excellent paper on berry crops in Ontario.

<http://people.trentu.ca/jebowman/Howeetal2012.pdf>

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** I thank staff of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources designated by an asterisk\* and others whose reports allow me to make annual forecasts: Dennis Barry (Durham Region), Eleanor Beagan (Prince Edward Island), Pascal Cote (Tadoussac Bird Observatory, Quebec), Bruce Di Labio (Eastern Ontario and Churchill, Manitoba), Carolle Eady (Dryden), Cameron Eckert (Yukon), Marcel Gahbauer (Alberta & Northwest Territories), Michel Gosselin (Canadian Museum of Nature), David Govatski (New Hampshire), Charity Hendry\* (Ontario Tree Seed Facility), Leo Heyens\* (Kenora), Tyler Hoar (Northern Ontario & Quebec Laurentians), Jean Iron (Hudson Bay, James Bay & Northeastern Ontario), Bruce Mactavish (Newfoundland), Brian Naylor\* (Nipissing), Justin Peter\* (Algonquin Park), Genevieve Perreault (Regroupement QuebecOiseaux), Fred Pinto\* (North Bay), Harvey & Brenda Schmidt (Creighton, Saskatchewan), Ron

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**LITERATURE CITED:** Erskine, A.J. and R. McManus, Jr. 2003. Supposed periodicity of redpoll, *Carduelis* sp., winter visitations in Atlantic Canada. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 117(4):611-620.

**Contributed by:**

Ron Pittaway  
Ontario Field Ornithologists  
Minden, Ontario  
19 September 2012



Male Magnificent Frigatebird.  
Courtesy Steve Bobonick

# Conservation

*(From “Bird Conservation,” magazine of the American Bird Conservancy, Spring 2012. Reprinted with permission.)*

## Recovering Shorebirds in the Americas

Consider this: On August 22, 2011, a Whimbrel, named Chinquapin by biologists, headed southward from Canada’s upper Hudson Bay carrying a tiny satellite transmitter. After two days and nights of non-stop flying, he encountered Hurricane Irene, with sustained winds over 111 mph. Ask anyone with a sailboat what this must have been like for a bird that weighs about a pound. To the amazement and relief of the researchers tracking him, Chinquapin flew on through the storm, then changed course and landed in the Bahamas for a several-week stay before resuming his migration. As I write, he is wintering in Suriname, exactly where he did last year, apparently none the worse for his experience.

Or this: In preparing to migrate north from Tierra del Fuego, at the southern tip of South America, Red Knots increase the mass of their flight muscles while simultaneously shrinking their digestive system. The change is so drastic that when they arrive at stopover sites in the United States, they are incapable of digesting the clams and mussels they eat most of the year. Yet if soft food, such as the eggs of horseshoe crabs, is sufficiently available, they can almost double their weight in just two weeks. You could think of a 105-lb. human reaching 200 lbs. in that short time (but maybe it’s better not to).

Or try this: a Red Knot named B95 has so far flown a cumulative distance equivalent to the Earth to the Moon and part way back – more than 350,000 miles! B95, now at least 18 years old, was photographed late last year by

some of the same people who first caught him in 1995. They all look much older than in the earlier photographs, but he looks the same. Many—but not all—shorebird species aggregate at a small number of food-rich “stepping stone” sites along coastlines and inland wetlands during their lengthy migratory cycle. Some, such as the Sanderling and the well-named Solitary Sandpiper, are “dispersed migrants” found in small numbers along extensive coastlines or rivers. Other shorebird species, endemic to South America, are among the world’s least understood groups of birds in both their natural history and their conservation status.

For all shorebirds, threats including loss of habitat through development, chronic disturbance from beachgoers and dogs, “coastal engineering” projects, climate change, and overfishing of their food resources, have taken their toll. In fact, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan ([www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan](http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan)), shows that no species of breeding or migrant shorebird in North America is in the category of “not at risk,” and half are classified as “of high concern” or “highly imperiled.”

The following facts give a sense of the situation: (1) The number of long-distance migrant rufa Red Knots has dropped from 50,000 to 15,000 since 1985. (2) Numbers of migrant shorebirds using Delaware Bay have declined by 80% since 1982. (3) Semipalmated Sandpipers have dropped by 80% — from 1.8 million to 350,000 birds — in their core winter range in northern South America since 1982. (4) Populations of shorebirds using Kachemak Bay, Alaska, have fallen by 70% since the 1990s.

What then is to be done? Effective conservation of shorebirds must address three inherent challenges: 1) shorebirds are among the most migratory animals on the planet and require concerted action over an enormous geography; 2) for the many species

that congregate in large groups, their critical stopover sites are essentially irreplaceable; and 3) coastal and wetland habitats have been lost or degraded even faster than other habitat types. Climate change exacerbates all three of these challenges.

Faced with these challenges, it quickly becomes obvious that no single group, corporation, government, or treaty organization in the world has enough resources—or authority—to recover shorebird populations on their own. The only way forward is through “collective impact,” where many organizations from various sectors work towards the same goal, and measure progress the same way. Success depends on having a backbone organization that actively coordinates actions and shares lessons learned among participating groups.

One of the best-known and most effective organizations is the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN, [www.whsrn.org](http://www.whsrn.org)). Begun in 1985, and now comprising 85 sites covering some 30 million acres in 13 nations, WHSRN is a voluntary, non-regulatory coalition whose mission is to conserve shorebirds and their habitats through a network of key sites across the Americas.

WHSRN enrolls sites based on two simple criteria: 1) importance to shorebirds as demonstrated by annually hosting at least 20,000 shorebirds or 1% of a population, and 2) a simple letter of commitment from the landowner(s) agreeing to make shorebird conservation a priority at the site. WHSRN’s Executive Office, with staff in Maine and Massachusetts; Baja California, Mexico; and Santiago, Chile, is operated by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, and serves as the critical “backbone organization.” A Hemispheric Council, made up of 16 influential members of governments and

non-profits in the Americas and beyond, shapes the WHSRN strategy and makes decisions on new site nominations.

Curiously, the very power of WHSRN is that it has no formal legal or treaty basis, and maintains a low barrier-to-entry. Rather than placing prerequisites on landowners and managers (such as having a functioning shorebird management plan), WHSRN first helps them appreciate their connection to the rest of the hemisphere and provides them not only the will (pride of place) but also the way (knowledge, tools, and connections) to ensure effective conservation of the site.

A second area where collective impact for shorebird recovery is necessary is in building a scientific foundation for action. What are the drivers that have caused shorebirds to decline? Answering this and similar questions is the purpose of the Shorebird Research Group of the Americas ([www.shorebirdresearch.org](http://www.shorebirdresearch.org)), a consortium of researchers from academia, government, non-government organizations, and the public, whose purpose is to encourage collaborative research, provide communication among individuals and groups, and to be a clearinghouse for emerging ideas and issues related to shorebirds.

The work of the Arctic Shorebird Demographic Network (ASDN) exemplifies the enormous geographic scale and complexity that finding answers to shorebird declines presents.

ASDN’s work combines unprecedented and sophisticated understanding of experimental design and biostatistics with the almost unimaginable logistical challenges of placing qualified teams of field biologists at sites across the Arctic breeding grounds (and getting them safely home).

Using carefully formulated scientific protocol, ASDN will provide information on the mechanisms behind declines (e.g., poor reproductive success or low adult survival), and also help determine when shorebird population sizes are likely to be limited (e.g., breeding, migration, non-breeding). The results will make future conservation actions more efficient and surgically targeted. ASDN is coordinated by Manomet, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Kansas State University. The project is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, and several generous individual donors.

Any conservation effort needs to hold itself accountable by providing measures of success. For shorebirds, recovered and stable populations are the best measure of the success of conservation efforts. However, measuring and quantifying this requires a baseline from which to start, and ongoing monitoring at thousands of sites. Fortunately, in 1974, Brian Harrington, organized the International Shorebird Survey (ISS), one of the first large-scale “citizen-science” projects, with hundreds of volunteer teams counting shorebirds during spring and fall migrations. With modest financial resources, the ISS has contributed reliable data on shorebird populations for nearly 40 years, with over 69,000 surveys and total observations of more than 60 million shorebirds at more than 1,500 locations across the Western Hemisphere.

With the companion Atlantic Canada Shorebird Survey, the ISS has become among the most significant sources of monitoring information for shorebirds in North America.

Recently, statistician Dr. Paul Smith collaborated with Manomet to analyze the ISS data from 1974 through 2009 for 41 species

(80% of all regularly occurring shorebirds in North America). The results demonstrate that shorebirds continue to face significant conservation challenges. Although ongoing declines for many species warrant concern, the analyses also suggested some reasons for optimism. For all shorebirds combined, the troubling declines observed through the 1990s may have slowed, perhaps because of conservation efforts by WHSRN and many other groups. Five species were found to be increasing. These include the American Oystercatcher, the subject of significant management efforts, and the Semipalmated Plover, not previously known to be increasing.

Despite these encouraging trends, the estimates also suggest that declines are ongoing for 23 species, and at statistically significant rates for five species. These include some already known to be of conservation concern, such as the Red Knot and Long-billed Curlew, but others, such as the Blackbellied Plover, for which there was previously no specific conservation concern.

What can you do? Help others understand how amazing these heroic little birds are and why they deserve our protection; contribute to knowledge by reporting sightings (<http://ebird.org/content/iss/>); avoid disturbing roosting or feeding shorebirds; and contribute financially to conservation groups such as ABC and Manomet.

Together we can create a conservation success story equal to that of waterfowl in the 1920s or raptors in the 1980s.

About the author: Charles Duncan is Director of the Shorebird Recovery Project at the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences ([www.manomet.org](http://www.manomet.org)). Manomet, one of the nation’s oldest non-profit environmental research organizations, is dedicated to conserving natural resources for both humans and wildlife. Charles Duncan also serves as

Director of the Executive Office of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is a 501(c)(3), not-for profit organization whose mission is to conserve native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. Visit them at: [www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org)

## Bird of the Week

### Buff-breasted Sandpiper



**Scientific Name:** *Tryngites subruficollis*  
**Population:** 15,000 mature individuals  
**IUCN Red List:** Near Threatened  
**U.S. Watch List:** Red  
**Trend:** Decreasing  
**Range:** Nests along the coast from eastern Siberia and Alaska to islands in the Canadian Arctic. Winters on short-grass pampas in Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay.  
**Habitat:** Dry, elevated tundra with sparse vegetation. During migration, frequents short-grass areas such as pastures, turf farms, golf courses, airports, and recently-harvested fields.



females. After mating at the lek site, the females leave to nest and raise the young elsewhere.

Once believed to number in the millions, this species was decimated by commercial hunting by the turn of the 20th Century, and still has not fully recovered. Loss of habitat along its migration path and on its wintering grounds, as well as pesticide use, further diminished its numbers.

Management actions that would benefit the Buff-breasted Sandpiper include limiting pesticide use in agricultural areas and maintaining pasture at a suitable grass height on the birds' wintering grounds; efforts to protect and improve grassland habitat in staging areas throughout the United States also need to be continued. Oil development should also be restricted on the birds' breeding grounds to preserve existing lek and nesting sites.

The dainty, dove-headed Buff-breasted Sandpiper is an atypical shorebird, most often found in grassy habitats away from the coast. Unique among North American shorebirds, it has evolved to mate on "leks", small areas where males gather to display and compete for



Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies.  
Courtesy Steve Bobonick



Galapagos Flightless Cormorant.  
Courtesy Steve Bobonick



## The Passenger Pigeon

### Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

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2012-2013 Dues:

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September  
2012 - May 2013 birding season, please fill out the form  
below and mail it in along with your membership fees.

Visit us on the Web at:

[www.cincinnatibirds.com/birdclub/index.php](http://www.cincinnatibirds.com/birdclub/index.php)

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## Bird Club Membership

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